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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 12058 161530Z

73
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 H-02 OMB-01 NSC-05 /068 W
---------- 037943
R 161517Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0482
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN
USNMR SHAPE

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MPOL, US, FRG, SOPN
SUBJECT: FRG PRESS REACTION TO SENATOR HUMPHREY'S
CRITICISM OF THE SEVENTH ARMY

BEGIN SUMMARY: SENATOR HUMPHREY'S USE OF A GAO STUDY
TO CRITICIZE THE COMBAT READINESS OF THE SEVENTH ARMY
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PAGE 02 BONN 12058 161530Z

RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE IN THE GERMAN PRESS.
WHILE SOME NEWSPAPERS SIMPLY QUOTED THE CRITICISMS MADE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

BY THE SENATOR AND EXCERPTED DETAILS FROM THE STUDY, OTHERS REPORTED THE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT ISSUED BY SECRETARY OF THE ARMY HOFFMANN. IN ADDITION, "DIE WELT-(RIGHT CENTER) PUBLISHED A LONG INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL HAIG IN WHICH SACEUR DESCRIBED U.S. TROOPS STATIONED IN GERMANY AS FULLY COMBAT READY. END SUMMARY.

1. WHILE NEWSPAPERS SUCH AS THE "SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG" (INDEPENDENT, LIBERAL) AND THE "WESTDEUTSCHE ALLGEMEINE" (INDEPENDENT) LIMITED THEIR COVERAGE TO SENATOR HUMPHREY'S CRITICISMS, THE MORE SERIOUS NEWSPAPERS, SUCH AS "DIE WELT" AND THE "STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG" (INDEPENDENT, LIBERAL) ALSO COVERED SECRETARY HOFFMANN'S STATEMENT WHICH POINTED OUT THAT THE GAO STUDY HAD BEEN MADE EIGHTEEN MONTHS EARLIER. "DIE WELT" AND THE "RANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE" (CONSERVATIVE, INDEPENDENT) ALSO PUBLISHED STATEMENTS AND EDITORIALS DISAGREEING WITH SENATOR HUMPHREY'S CHARGES.

2. ON JULY 10, THE DAY AFTER THE SENATOR'S CHARGES HAD APPEARED IN THE PRESS, "DIE WELT" PUBLISHED A LONG ARTICLE ABOUT THE COMBAT READINESS OF U.S. FORCES IN EUROPE. IT QUOTED WERNER BUCHSTALLER (SPD) AS SAYING THAT THE BUNDESTAG DEFENSE COMMITTEE, OF WHICH HE IS CHAIRMAN, HAD MET AT USAREUR HEADQUARTERS IN HEIDELBERG THIS YEAR AND HAD GAINED A COMPREHENSIVE IMPRESSION OF THE CONDITION OF U.S. TROOPS, WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT. "DIE WELT" WENT ON TO QUOTE BUCHSTALLER FURTHER IN SAYING THAT THERE WAS" NO DOUBT ABOUT THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF U.S. TROOPS" STATIONED IN EUROPE. THE "DIE WELT" ARTICLE WENT ON TO PROVIDE TWO COLUMNS DESCRIBING U.S. ARMED FORCES IN EUROPE.

3. ADALBERT WEINSTEIN, ONE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC'S BEST-KNOWN MILITARY CORRESPONDENTS, DISCUSSED SENATOR HUMPHREY'S CRITICISMS IN THE "FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG" ON JULY 12. AFTER ADMITTING THAT SHORTCOMINGS

MAY EXIST, WEINSTEIN WENT ON TO STATE "WE MAY BE SURE THAT WHEREVER A FAILURE OCCURS, SHORTCOMINGS ARE QUICKLY ELIMINATED." NOTING THAT NATO HAS A SYSTEM WHERE UNITS COMPETE WITH EACH OTHER FOR EXCELLENCE OF PERFORMANCE, WEINSTEIN ADDED THAT THE CONCRETE RESULTS OF THIS COMPETITION WERE MOST POSITIVE IN IMPROVING OVERALL PERFORMANCE. AT THE SAME TIME, WEINSTEIN NOTED THAT CERTAIN DEFICIENCIES WERE BEYOND THE CONTROL OF THE INDIVIDUAL MILITARY UNIT. DEFICIENCIES RESULTING FROM PERSONNEL POLICIES, SHORTAGES OF EQUIPMENT, AMMUNITION

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AND WEAPONS WERE PENTAGON RESPONSIBILITIES "BUT
WASHINGTON IS FAR AWAY."
CASH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, PRESS COMMENTS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 16 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN12058
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760275-1044
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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